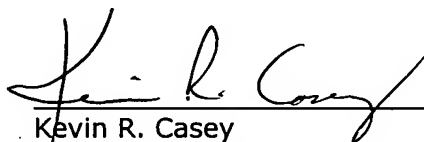


**Remarks/Arguments:**

By this preliminary amendment, the specification and the abstract have been amended to place the application in better condition for examination and allowance. All of pending claims 1-33 have been amended and claims 34-59 have been added to avoid multiply dependent claims, remove element numbers, and otherwise comply with the requirements and standards of U.S. Patent and Trademark Office practice. Entry of this preliminary amendment and issuance of a first action on the merits are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kevin R. Casey  
Attorney for Applicant

KRC:lk

Attachments: Abstract;  
Substitute Specification with Revision Marks; and  
Substitute Specification with Revision Marks Accepted

Dated: January 4, 2005

Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP  
30 Valley Stream Parkway  
Malvern, PA 19355-1481  
(610) 640-5800

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment for any additional fee which may be required or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **502951**.

**EXPRESS MAIL**

Mailing Label Number: **EV 583575882 US**  
Date of Deposit: **January 4, 2005**

I hereby certify that this paper and fee are being deposited, under 37 C.R.R. § 1.10 and with sufficient postage, using the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service to the United States Postal Service on the date indicated above and that the deposit is addressed to Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

